

wherein the tubular housing and the solid material are formed of materials that effect a beam strength exceeding that of a correspondingly sized wood construction beam.

17. (Thrice Amended) A method of forming a construction beam comprising filling a tubular housing with a solid material having a Poisson's ratio, the tubular housing forming a part of the construction beam, wherein the tubular housing is constructed such that a Poisson's ratio of the tubular housing is less than the solid material to thereby confine the solid material, wherein the tubular housing and the solid material are formed of materials that effect a beam strength exceeding that of a correspondingly sized wood construction beam.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 17 have been amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Office Action contends that "neither specification nor drawing gives the specific relation/explanation of how a Poisson's ratio structurally related to a filling material." In this context, it appears that the Examiner still does not understand a basic tenet of mechanical engineering. For the Examiner's information, two textbook discussions of Poisson's ratio, which of course would be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art, are attached. In the context of the present specification, the specification describes that using a fiber reinforced plastics material with proper Poisson's ratio or like material provides very high confinement to increase the compressive (up to ten times) and shear